

## **Winter Watches and Warning**

### **What does that warning mean?**

The National Weather Service will inform you about developing hazardous weather with outlooks, watches, warnings and advisories. Now is the time To get ready for winter weather, during this Colorado Winter Weather Preparedness Week.

This list has the watch, warning and advisory criteria for coloradoeast of the continental divide. Save this list for use throughout thewinter. Criteria west of the continental divide will be provided todayBy the Grand Junction office.

Heavy snow criteria for eastern and central colorado are representative values applied over a large geographic area:

#### **Mountains: 8 inches of snow in 12 hours**

12 or more inches in 24 hours.

#### **Lower elevations: 6 inches of snow in 12 hours**

8 or more inches in 24 hours.

### **Winter watches and warnings:**

**A winter storm watch:** Issued when winter storm conditions are possible within the next 3 days, but the timing, intensity, Or, occurrence may still be uncertain.

**A winter storm warning:** Issued when heavy snow is occurring or Will develop in the next 36 hours. The heavy snow may be Accompanied by wind greater than 15 mph and blowing snow.

**A blizzard Watch:** Issued when blizzard conditions are possible in the next 12 to 36 hours.

**A blizzard Warning:** Issued in lower elevations when the following conditions are expected for at least 3 hours:

**Sustained winds of 35 mph or greater.**

**Considerable falling and or drifting snow lowering visibilities to less than 1/4 mile.**

**A blizzard warning:** Issued in the mountains and foothills for the conditions Above, but with winds in excess of 50 mph at the higher elevations.

**A wind chill watch:** Issued when wind chill warning criteria are possible In the next 12 to 36 hours.

**A wind chill warning:** Issued for wind chills of at least minus 25 degrees On the plains, and minus 35 degrees in the mountains and foothills.

**A freeze watch:** Issued when freeze conditions are possible in the next 12 to 36 hours.

**A freeze warning:** Issued during the growing season when widespread temperatures are expected to drop to below 32 degrees.

**A high wind watch:** Issued when high wind conditions are expected to develop in the next 12 to 36 hours. Sometimes it will be issued late in the first forecast period, 6 to 12 hours, if the potential for high wind exists, but there is some uncertainty.

**A high wind warning:** Issued for the following conditions:

Sustained winds of 50 mph for at least 1 hour or gusts to 75 mph for any duration in the mountains and foothills.

Sustained winds of 40 mph for at least 1 hour...or gusts to 58 mph

For any duration at lower elevations away from the foothills.

#### **Advisories:**

##### **A winter weather advisory is issued:**

When general snow accumulations are expected between 4 and 8 inches in 12 hours in the mountains and foothills and between 3 and 6 inches in 12 hours at lower elevations.

When falling snow is accompanied by blowing snow to cause travel problems due to lower visibilities.

When wind blown snow will occasionally reduce visibilities and create a hazard for travelers. For freezing drizzle or a mix of precipitation types, such as snow and sleet, that will impact travel conditions.

**A dense fog advisory:** Issued when fog will reduce visibilities to 1/4 mile Or less.

**A wind chill advisory:** Issued on the plains when wind and temperature combine to produce wind chill values of minus 18 degrees to minus 25 degrees.

**A wind chill advisory:** Issued for the mountains and foothills when wind and temperature combine to produce wind chill values of minus 25 degrees.

**A frost advisory:** Issued during the growing season when temperatures are expected to drop to between 32 and 35 degrees on clear calm nights.

**A blowing dust advisory:** Issued when blowing dust reduces visibilities to between a quarter of a mile and a mile.

This week is winter weather awareness week in colorado. Public information Statements will be issued throughout the week to give safety information, and help you know how to respond when winter weather threatens.